

# FOCH SPRINGS SURPRISE

## British and French Launch New Offensive On 28-Mile Front Southeast of Amiens

### GERMANS DRIVEN BACK 3 MILES IN QUICK TIME

**Prisoners Taken by British So Numerous Troops Have Difficulty in Handling Them—British Fourth Army and French First Army Advance at Dawn and Capture Several Villages and Important Positions in Less Than Four Hours.**

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, Aug. 8.—11:30 a. m.—(By The Associated Press).—The British attacked over a 12-mile front on both sides of the Somme. They gained all their objectives within four hours and have captured a considerable number of prisoners and guns.

WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN FRANCE, Aug. 8.—11 a. m.—(By The Associated Press).—A combined Franco-British assault began exactly at dawn today along a front of between 40 and 50 kilometers and a success was scored immediately. The British advanced toward Cerisy-Gailly, on the south side of the Somme east of Saily Laurette, and Marcelcave. The French advanced at the same time in the direction of Demuin and Aubercourt.

Around Morisel and Moreuil the German resistance is terrific.

PARIS, Aug. 8.—Franco-British troops at five o'clock this morning began an offensive in the region southeast of Amiens, the war office announces.

The attack is developing under favorable conditions. Along the French front the artillery preparation lasted for forty minutes after which the troops left their trenches with wonderful dash. Before 8 o'clock considerable progress had been recorded and all the first objectives had been attained.

LONDON, Aug. 8.—British troops launched an offensive east and southeast of Amiens this morning, says a statement from Field Marshal Haig today. Early reports indicate that the attack is progressing satisfactorily.

The attack is under the command of Field Marshal Haig and is on a wide front, the statement adds. The troops engaged, the British Fourth army and the French First army, advanced at dawn.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, Aug. 8.—(By The Associated Press).—In their offensive on the front east of Amiens today the British have taken Hahner wood, Dodo wood and probably have possession of the towns of Marcelcave and La Motte-en-Santerre.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, Aug. 8.—(By The Associated Press).—The line attacked this morning extends roughly from the neighborhood of Morlancourt, about three miles and a half southwest of Albert, to the Avre valley south of Moreuil. Details of the fighting are coming to the rear slowly. "Going fine," constitutes the best available information. The British launched their attack in a mist after only three minutes of artillery preparation.

LONDON, Aug. 8.—(Picardy Battle Front).—According to advices received in London, the French and British forces which attacked this morning in the Picardy sector have advanced at some points to a depth of more than three miles.

LONDON, Aug. 8.—A very considerable number of villages have been captured in the Franco-British offensive and substantial progress has been made, according to news received here this afternoon.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE.—In the district north of the Somme the Germans are reported to have launched two counter-attacks. The British artillery fire broke them both up.

The prisoners taken by the British

move which is under the immediate direction of Field Marshal Haig, the British commander-in-chief.

Both the Paris and London official statements announce the opening of the attack and report satisfactory progress in its early stages.

The field of the fighting is the scene of the most pronounced German success in this year's series of enemy offensives. It was in the first German blow, delivered against the British front between Cambrai and La Fere, on March 21, that the enemy broke into the Allied lines and was not stopped until he had pushed to the region of Montdidier. He swept over a wide stretch of territory and established the vast salient that has since stood virtually intact, with its apex at Montdidier and its base roughly extending along the line from Albert, near the Somme, on the north, to Noyon on the Oise on its southern side.

The front under attack is not definitely defined, but it seems probable that its length is at least twenty miles from the Somme to the Montdidier region.

Marshal Foch's object in striking here may well have been based upon the idea of breaking up the enemy line between Montdidier and Soissons before the Germans had time to stabilize the Soissons-Rheims front.

(By The Associated Press.) British and French troops attacked this morning from Albert, northeast of Amiens, to Montdidier on the Avre, southeast of Amiens; the front of attack being approximately 28 miles.

Meager reports from the field indicate that the allies have advanced to a depth of about three miles south of the Somme and probably have taken the villages of Marcelcave and La Motte-en-Santerre.

The Germans seem to have had knowledge of the plans of the allied commander-in-chief for during the last ten days they have carried out three local retirements in the northern sectors of their line—two of these withdrawals being the Picardy salient, one on each side of Albert, along the Ancre river, and the other along the Avre river, north of Montdidier. In both cases the enemy retired to positions before which rivers offer partial protection.

PARIS, Aug. 8.—The official war statement says: "At 5 o'clock this morning (Thursday) French troops in company with British forces attacked in the region southeast of Amiens. The attack is developing under favorable conditions."

An attack southeast of Amiens probably is aimed at weakening, if not to wipe out, the German position in and around Montdidier, where the battle line swings to the north. The British troops hold a sector south of the Somme which joins the French lines south of Villers-Bretonneux. Late last week the Germans withdrew to the east of the Avre, west and northwest of Montdidier. Since then the French have been gaining ground on the same front.

A break through into the Montdidier sector probably would have a menacing effect on the German lines from Rheims to Ypres.

(By Associated Press.) WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY ON THE VESLE, Aug. 7.—More American infantry units crossed the Vesle east and west of Fismes late today. The Germans are counter-attacking the Americans west of Fismes, but the Americans are shattering the enemy efforts and holding their ground.

Morning Review of the War Situation. (By The Associated Press.) Allied troops on two widely separated sectors are keeping the Germans busy and have carried out important local advances.

French and American troops have crossed the Vesle successfully on a front of about five miles between Brie and Fismes. North of Rheims on the eastern end of this sector the French have moved 400 yards between the railroads running to Laon and Bethel.

British troops at the apex of the Lys salient have pushed forward their lines more than half a mile on a front of almost five miles near the Clarence river. Apparently the German resistance was not great. Thus far

#### LEADS ADVANCING FORCE IN ALBANIA



General Franchet-Esperey.

General Franchet-Esperey is the new commander of the French forces in the Saloniki front. He is one of the leaders of the Franco-Italian army which is advancing now in Albania.

#### NAVY UNAFFECTED BY NEW DRAFT

**Extension to Navy Department Not Necessary—Merchant Marine Men Needed.**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8.—Extension of the draft system to the navy is not regarded as necessary at this time by the navy department. Rear Admiral Palmer, chief of the bureau of navigation, told the senate military committee today the navy has practically all the men it needs and that enlistments would not be affected by changing the army draft ages.

Enlistments in the navy now total approximately 430,000 men, said Admiral Palmer who represented Secretary Daniels before the committee. Admiral Palmer explained that enlistments now are principally to provide crews for the merchant marine and that about 200,000 men have been accepted for that purpose. Even if the present bill is enacted he said that the navy would have no difficulty in recruiting 10,000 men a month.

Marshal Foch has not thrown very large forces to the north of the Vesle. The units which have crossed are stretched along the Rheims-Soissons highway and are meeting with stubborn resistance.

Over the entire front between Soissons and Rheims the artillery duel continues intense. Enemy guns are of medium caliber and it is believed the Germans have their guns north of the Aisne in preparation for an eventual retirement from between the rivers.

West of Soissons the Germans are showing signs of nervousness and have carried out two surprise attacks. Both were checked by the French. East of the Nieppe forest north of St. Venant the British patrols have taken 30 prisoners. In Picardy the British have repulsed further German efforts to advance astride the Bray-Corbis road.

On the Italian front isolated artillery firing continues. French troops in eastern Albania have repulsed a Bulgarian attack while along the Semeri in the west Italian cavalry captured seventy prisoners in routing of an Austrian column.

LONDON, Aug. 8.—There is widespread discontent in the large Austrian towns by a recent rise of 116 per cent in the price of bread, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Zurich today. Negotiations have been opened with the government over the situation and meetings of protest have been held in Vienna, Prague and Graz.

#### PACKERS FACING ORDER

**Government May Control all Plants and Allied Business.**

#### FIVE FIRMS INVOLVED

**Investigators Report Misdeeds to President Wilson.**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8.—Government acquisition and control of all the principal stockyards, cold storage plants and warehouses and both refrigerator and cattle cars has been recommended to the president by the federal trade commission to destroy a monopoly which it declares Swift & company, Armour & company, Morris & company, Wilson & company, Inc., and the Cudahy Packing company exercise, not only over the meat industry of the country, but other necessary food supplies.

The commission's report was made public today through the White House. It has been in the hands of the president since July 5 and had not previously been issued "because the president first wished to be in possession of full information."

Power Used Unfairly. Basing its statement upon a great volume of evidence examined, the commission said the power of the five packing companies "has been and is being unfairly and illegally used" to: Manipulate livestock markets. Restrict interstate and international supplies of food.

Control the prices of dressed meats and other foods.

Defraud both the producers of food and consumers.

Crush effective competition.

Secure special privileges from railroads, stockyard companies and municipalities.

Profit.

Conspiracy Found. "While we have found," said the commission's report, "an intricate fabric of monopolies, controls, combinations, conspiracies and restraints" which would seem to indicate legislative, or administrative remedies we believe that an adequate remedy may be more simply arrived at.

"We believe that if the fundamental and underlying evils are rooted out, the whole structure of conspiracy, control, monopoly and restraint must fall."

"If these five great concerns owned no packing plants and killed no cattle and still retained control of the instruments of transportation, of marketing and of storage their position would be no less strong than it is."

Recommendations to President.

(1)—That the government acquire, through the railroad administration, all rolling stock used for the transportation of meat animals and that such ownership be declared a government monopoly.

(2)—That the government acquire, through the railroad administration, the principal and necessary stockyards of the country to be treated as freight depots and to be operated under such conditions as will insure open, competitive markets with uniform scale of charges for all services performed and the acquisition or establishment of such additional yards from time to time as the development of livestock production may require. This to include customary adjuncts of stockyards.

(3)—That the government acquire, through the railroad administration, all privately owned refrigerator railroad cars and all necessary equipment for their proper operation and that such ownership be declared a government monopoly.

(4)—That the federal government acquire such of the branch houses, cold storage plants and warehouses as

#### U-BOAT SINKS SHIP

**Steamship Merak Sent Down off Cape Hatteras as Tuesday Night.**

NEW YORK, Aug. 8.—Information that the American steamship Merak 3224 tons gross, was sunk by a German submarine off Cape Hatteras on Tuesday night, was received today in marine insurance circles here. One small boat containing 18 members of the crew is still unaccounted for.

The captain and 23 members of the crew have been landed at Norfolk. The Merak, one of the former Dutch cargo vessels which were taken over a few months ago by the United States shipping board was on her way from an American port for Chile, carrying coal.

The navy's report said:

"The American steamship Merak was shelled, torpedoed and sunk by an enemy submarine at 1:50 p. m., on Tuesday, 15 miles northeast of the Diamond shoal lightship off Cape Hatteras, N. C. The Merak was of 3022 gross tons."

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8.—Sinking of the small unarmed American steamer Merak by a German submarine off the coast of North Carolina was reported today to the navy department. No details were given.

are necessary to provide facilities for the competitive marketing and storage of food products in the principal centers of distribution and consumption. The same to be operated by the government as public markets and storage places under such conditions as will afford an outlet for all manufacturers and handlers of food products on equal terms. Supplementing the marketing and storage facilities thus acquired, the federal government should establish, through the railroad administration at the terminals of all principal points of distribution and consumption, central wholesale markets and storage plants with facilities open to all, upon payment of just and fair charges."

Dominant Facts Stand Out

"Out of the mass of information," the report continued, "one fact stands out with all possible emphasis. The small dominant group of American meat packers are now international in their activities while remaining American in their identity. Blame which now attaches to them for their practices abroad as well as at home inevitably will attach to our country if the practices continue."

"This urgently augurs for a solution which will not diminish the high regard in which this people is held in international committee."

Companies Own World Production

The committee says the five packing companies either separately or jointly own or control more than half of the export meat production of the Argentine, Brazil and Uruguay, and have investments in other surplus meat producing countries including Australia as well as branches in Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Canada, Denmark and Paraguay.

"Under present shipping conditions," the report adds, "the big American packers control more than half of the meat upon which the Allies are dependent."

Companies Falsify

Of the difficulties which the packers threw into the way of the commission's investigators headed by Francis J. Heney, the report says: "The commission through Mr. Heney had to meet deliberate falsification of returns properly required under legal authority; we had to meet schools for witnesses where employees were coached in anticipation of their being called to testify in an invitation ordered by you (the president) and by the congress of the United States."

The commission's staff, the report declared, have met and overcome every obstacle that "ingenuity and money could devise to impede them." The president's attention was called to the work of Mr. Heney "whose conduct of the case, because of its success, has met with condemnation, misrepresentation and criticism."

#### TANKS ARE IN ACTION

**French and British Monstrosities Cross Avre-Luce Valley.**

#### ATTACKING HEAVILY

**French Follow Ally Into Fierce Early Morning Battle.**

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, Aug. 8.—(Reuters).—French and British tanks have crossed the Avre-Luce valley in the new drive this morning.

The German positions just south of the Ancre river were heavily attacked by the British. Their assault extended to the south where their right wing joins the French lines. Three-quarters of an hour after the British attacked the Germans, the French took up the battle.

This was near the time the Diamond shoal lightship itself was sent down by the enemy raider.

The greatest secrecy surrounded plans for the attack. During the night the Germans heavily bombarded the British lines but their shells were ineffective. An extraordinarily large number of tanks accompanied the storming troops clearing the way for them in the gray light of dawn and helping to overcome enemy strong points.

The main weight to the allied blow was directed against General von Hutier's Eighteenth army.

The attack must have taken the Germans by surprise as the weather has not been such as would generally be chosen for the commencement of new operations.

On Monday there was a continuous downpour of rain along the Amiens front.

Germans Given Surprise.

PARIS, Aug. 8.—The allied attack on the Albert-Montdidier front today apparently was unexpected by the Germans and many prisoners were taken. One German division was surprised as it was coming up to relieve the front line troops.

Reports received up to mid-afternoon indicated that the offensive was progressing favorably.

The average advance was approximately two and one-half miles on a front of slightly more than 25 miles. The allied advance at some points was more than three miles. Important material has been captured by the advancing troops.

#### NO AMERICANS IN NEW OFFENSIVE ON BRITISH FRONT

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8.—So far as known here no American divisions are involved in the Franco-British thrust south and southeast of Amiens. American troops formerly in the Cantigny sector, where the first American attack resulted in the capture of the town of Cantigny, are understood to have been withdrawn many weeks ago.

Some American units are brigaded with British units, however, and may be participating in the new blow struck by General Foch. It is also possible that Americans are with the French First army.

JUDGE BECKER UNPATRIOTIC.

EU CLAIRE, Wis., Aug. 7.—Judge John M. Becker, of Monroe, tried in federal court here on a charge of having made unpatriotic utterances, was convicted by a jury tonight. Sentence was deferred.